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SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

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TAGS: PHUM ELAB SMIG ASEC KFRD PREF KWMN PL KRCM  
SUBJECT: POLAND: SIXTH ANNUAL (2006) TRAFFICKING IN  
PERSONS REPORT SUBMISSION

REF: STATE 3836

1. (SBU) Following are responses keyed to questions in paragraphs 21-25 of REFTEL. Embassy point of contact is Political Officer Katharine Read (telephone: 48-22-504-2676, fax 48-22-504-2613, e-mail ReadKM@state.gov). POLOFF (FO-03) spent 45 hours collecting data and compiling report; one political locally engaged staff member spent a total of 45 hours collecting data.

2. (SBU) OVERVIEW: Answers keyed to para 21 of REFTEL

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21A. Poland is a country of origin, transit and destination for trafficking in persons. The main groups at risk are women and girls, with unemployed women, women from the poorest regions of Poland, and victims of domestic violence most at risk. Some trafficking occurs within Poland's borders, but most cases involve women and children being trafficked to, from, or through Poland. The illicit nature of trafficking in persons makes it difficult to determine the number of victims, particularly those of Polish citizens, and estimates vary substantially. The main sources of information for information and statistics contained in this cable are international and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), UN officials, OSCE/ODIHR contacts, Polish officials including those in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior Affairs and Administration, Ministry of Justice, Border Guards and National Police. All of these have proven to be reliable sources.

21B. Persons are trafficked to and through Poland from countries to the east and southeast, primarily Ukraine, Bulgaria, Romania, Belarus and Moldova. There have also been isolated reports of Vietnamese nationals being trafficked into Poland. Ukraine continues to serve as the source of the greatest number of persons trafficked through Poland, although Moldova also serves as the source for a substantial percentage of trafficked persons. Poles are trafficked to Western Europe including Germany, Italy, Belgium, France, and the Netherlands, as well as to Japan and Israel. Police statistics based on arrests and other direct contacts indicate that about 30 percent of the 7,300 prostitutes known to be working in Poland are of foreign origin. Most trafficking involves women trafficked into the sex trade, however, NGO experts estimate there is a growing percentage of victims forced to work in agricultural or other menial trades. NGOs continue to report that the number of Polish women trafficked to other countries appears to be decreasing, but there are no hard data to support this point. Political will to combat trafficking in persons remains strong; during the year the government allocated approximately \$80,000 from the National Budget to implement the National Anti-Trafficking plan developed by the interagency Anti-trafficking working group. NGO experts report that their cooperation with the government continues to improve.

Victims are trafficked to Poland primarily for work in "massage parlors" and "escort agencies," i.e., brothels. However, there have also been documented cases of victims forced to work in agriculture, in sweatshops and forced to beg on the streets. Victims in the sex trade are forced to work as nude dancers or prostitutes, and are often deprived of their passports and identity papers, and threatened with violence. In the case of forced prostitution, victims failing to service a minimum number of clients each day may suffer physical abuse. Police estimate 750 "escort agencies" operate in Poland, with 3,500 to 3,600 women working in them. Press sources, meanwhile, put the number of women working in all elements of the sex industry in Poland at anywhere from 18,000 to 20,000. Traffickers in Poland target young, unemployed or poorly paid Polish women. In addition, they focus on

women with poor family ties and weak support networks. According to the NGO La Strada, 80 percent of Polish victims are under 24 years of age. Traffickers approach young victims with promises of lucrative jobs in Western Europe as domestic workers, dancers, cooks, or waitresses. The victims are told that their handlers will take care of all documentation and are asked to turn over their passports. While some of the victims may know they are involved in an illegal employment ploy, many do not realize that they will be performing forced sexual services. A second method of recruitment is for a trafficker, usually residing permanently outside Poland, to feign emotional involvement and persuade his future victim to visit him abroad. In both cases, victims are subsequently detained and forced into prostitution through threat, blackmail or violence. Often, traffickers are connected with organized crime syndicates. If a victim is transported with documentation, they travel by train or car; if illegally, they are hidden in trucks, cars, or walking across unguarded borders.

21C. There are no limitations on Poland's law-enforcement activities, but government efforts on education and victim assistance have been primarily carried out through NGOs using foreign government funding, as well as increasing amounts of local and national government funding. According to the coordinator of the inter-ministerial working group, officers from various government agencies were trained in identification of trafficking victims and victim assistance in 13 of the 16 Polish provinces during the year. All incoming National Police are reported to receive basic instruction on the subject. More advanced training programs and victim assistance efforts conducted by foreign governments or NGOs are welcomed by GOP officials. Societal factors may play a role in the GOP's anti-trafficking program. Although a CBOS survey indicates that awareness has risen substantially over the past several years, many average Poles still view victims of trafficking as being responsible for their own fate.

21D. During the year, the interagency Anti-Trafficking working group produced a report that summarized the government's implementation of the 2003-2004 National Action Plan. The National Police Public Affairs Unit informs the public systematically about its efforts and publishes its trafficking statistics annually on its website. The National Prosecutor's Office of the Ministry of Justice maintains records of investigations and legal actions taken against traffickers, and works closely with provincial and local prosecutors to ensure accurate reporting. In addition, a La Strada intern works with the Polish government to document cases.

**13. (SBU) PREVENTION: Answers keyed to paragraph 22 of REFTEL**

22A. Polish government officials at the highest levels are aware of the seriousness of the trafficking problem in Poland, and are taking action to address the problem. TIP was one of the issues discussed by the newly-appointed Minister of Justice Zbigniew Ziobro and Ambassador Ashe in their inaugural meeting in November. In April, the second National Action Plan for 2005-2006 was approved by the Council of Ministers. In October, the government approved the first-ever national budget allocation for trafficking victim's assistance.

22B. This National Action Plan was developed by the interagency working group composed of high-level representatives of 12 government agencies, academics and NGOs (including the Ministries of Interior and Administration, Foreign Affairs, Education and Justice; Border Guards and National Police; NGOs La Strada and "Nobody's Children" and the University of Zielona Gora). The National Program is a strategy document that seeks to coordinate the efforts of various GOP and private sector entities involved in combating trafficking. The Prime Minister approved the Program in December 2003, and permanent representatives were appointed in March 2004. The Ministry of Interior has the lead in coordinating the working group's activities. With the exception of the approximately \$80,000 allocated by the government to the National Action Plan for trafficking victim's assistance, individual agencies are expected to fund anti-trafficking initiatives from their own budgets.

22C. During the year, both Caritas and La Strada coordinated with the Ministries of Education and Labor and the Border Guards on four separate educational campaigns. Caritas provides educational materials and instruction to all public secondary school pupils in the cities of Katowice, Szczecin, Warsaw, and Poznan.

Caritas also distributes guidebooks on how to find safe work abroad at the unemployment offices run by the Ministry of Labor throughout Poland. La Strada cooperates with the Border Guards on a "safe travel" campaign that distributes information on how to prevent trafficking and contact information of helpful authorities to individuals crossing the border. La Strada also received a grant from the Ministry of Education to produce educational leaflets to distribute to at-risk groups throughout the country.

22D. The Government of Poland supports a variety of social programs that indirectly work to prevent trafficking in persons. The Ministry of Labor and Social Policy took over competencies of the Government Plenipotentiary for Equal Status of Women and Men in December 2005. During the year, the Office of the Plenipotentiary for Equal Status of Women and Men provided financial grants to NGOs for projects realized in two areas related to women's rights. The first project focused on combating violence, chiefly against women, for which it funded grants totaling approximately \$80,000. The second project, which received approximately \$25,000, involved promotion of women in the labor market, including projects involving women from rural areas and disabled women.

The Ministry of Education supports programs aimed at lowering the teenage dropout rate, including holding parents responsible and assessing fines in cases of truancy. Other GOP programs that indirectly help prevent trafficking include public awareness campaigns against domestic violence and child abuse as well as job training programs for unemployed women. The Center for Missing and Disappeared Persons (ITAKA) cooperates with local and regional governments in their "Don't Run Away" program, discouraging youth from abandoning their homes.

(note, no 22E question in Reftel)

22F. The GOP recognizes the importance of NGOs and other elements of civil society in preventing trafficking in persons, and actively worked with them in the development of its National Program. The GOP relies on -- and works closely with -- NGOs for victim protection projects, law-enforcement training, and prevention campaigns. The relationship between the GOP and anti-trafficking organizations is described as open, positive, and deepening by both government officials and NGO representatives.

22G. The GOP devotes considerable resources to monitoring its borders. The Border Guards continue to receive high marks for the quality of their training and effectiveness of their enforcement activities from Western European counterparts. Thanks to training programs implemented by La Strada, Polish border guards are now trained to detect and assist victims of trafficking. The Border Guards discover potential TIP victims most often during inspections that they hold to check the legality of aliens' stays in Poland. These checks are essentially documentary in nature.

22H. Polish officials participate actively in international trafficking conferences. In April 2004, Poland was an initial sponsor of a resolution creating a U.N. Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in the Commission on Human Rights. A Ministry of Justice expert, Krzysztof Karsznicki, sits on the European Commission's group of 20 experts on Trafficking. Mr. Karsznicki developed special guidelines for the police on the implementation of Palermo Protocol definitions in practice, which the NGO La Strada referred to as a "breakthrough" in investigation of prosecution of traffickers. The Polish National Police (PNP) participate in several bilateral task forces that seek to share information, track the movements of traffickers and victims across borders and coordinate repatriations and casework. Bilateral efforts include Polish task forces with the Czech, German, and Swedish Police forces, and one multilateral task force that coordinates efforts between Polish and Baltic-nation Police forces on anti-TIP efforts. There is also an active National Anti-Corruption Strategy, managed by the Ministry of the Interior and Administration. There is currently a draft law in the parliament that proposes the creation of a Central Anti-Corruption Bureau. This was a key issue for the victorious Law and Justice party during the fall 2005 parliamentary campaign.

22J. In August 2003, a coordinated National Program for Combating Trafficking was accepted by all GOP agencies involved in anti-trafficking efforts. In December 2003, the plan was adopted by the Prime Minister, and a Board

of Directors to implement the plan was named in spring 2004. The National Action Plan developed by the interagency working group, in direct consultation with NGOs, for 2005-2006 received ministerial approval in April. In 2005, the working group also disseminated a report on its accomplishments from the 2003-2004 Action Plan, which includes a description of 16 in which it has improved coordination, official training, outreach, public education, witness protection, and victim's assistance.

#### 14. INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF TRAFFICKERS: Answers keyed to paragraph 23 of Reftel

23A. Polish law prohibits forcing individuals into prostitution, trafficking in human beings, and pimping. The relevant sections of the Criminal Code are Articles 204 (sexual trafficking) and 253 (non-sexual trafficking) effective since September 1, 1998. The laws cover both internal and external trafficking, and do not require proof that the victim was coerced in order to secure a conviction. Poland has adopted the UN Protocol on Trafficking in Persons (Palermo Protocol). The National Prosecutor's Office uses the Protocol's definition of trafficking in its prosecutions and indicates it has not been adversely affected by the absence of a specific definition in Polish national law.

23B. The maximum penalty for trafficking in persons is 15 years' imprisonment under Article 253 of the Criminal Code (minimum of 3 years' imprisonment). This Article of the Code does not require proof of trafficking connected with prostitution. Article 204, section 4 of the Code provides for up to 10 years' imprisonment for trafficking involving prostitution. Most sentences are shorter, with the most severe sentences reserved for those convicted of trafficking minors for the purpose of prostitution or luring/abducting adults into prostitution abroad.

23C. According to Criminal Code Article 197, using violence, threat, or deceit to force a person to have sexual intercourse is punishable by one to 10 years' imprisonment. Using such means to force a person into other sexual activity is punishable by three months' to five years' imprisonment. In cases involving more than one perpetrator or excessive cruelty, the punishment ranges from two to 12 years imprisonment, compared to up to 15 years for trafficking under Article 253. Polish prosecutors have expressed interest in using the multiple perpetrator/excessive cruelty provision of the law to sentence traffickers to longer sentences, although this has not been tested in court.

23D. Prostitution in Poland is legal; but "pimping" or otherwise profiting from a prostitute's activities is illegal. Under the current version of the Polish Criminal Code, the legal age of consent to sexual activity is 15. However, Poland has ratified the Palermo Protocol, the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the rights of Children (of May 25, 2000), and the EU Convention on the Rights of Children. All of these documents prohibit prostitution by individuals less than 18 years of age. In the opinion of the National Prosecutor's office, according to the Polish Constitution (Art. 87) and international law, the provisions of these documents automatically become part of Polish law and act to prohibit child prostitution as therein defined. Full implementation of the protocols and Convention will require changes, inter alia, in the Polish Criminal, Family and Labor Codes. The prosecutor's office additionally states that anyone (including a parent) assisting a person under the age of 18 to engage in prostitution would be assumed to be benefiting financially from this assistance and would be investigated and prosecuted accordingly.

23E. According to the National Prosecutor's Office, in 2005 Polish authorities initiated 22 new investigations and continued working on 22 ongoing cases. In 2005, 31 investigations were completed, of which 19 resulted in indictments and 12 were dismissed. Of these 12 dismissed, 10 lacked sufficient evidence and 2 lacked physical presence of the perpetrators. In the 19 cases that resulted in indictments, 42 individuals were indicted under articles 253 and 204 of the criminal code on trafficking charges, compared to 39 in 2004. 99 victims were involved in the 19 cases that resulted in indictments. 10 of these 99 victims were minors, and 37 of the 99 victims were foreigners, 34 from Ukraine and 3 from Belarus. Of the 42 individuals indicted, 2 were Bulgarian, 2 were German, and one was a Belgian-Polish dual national. In the 22 cases that are ongoing, 15 are active and 7 are suspended pending foreign legal assistance.

According to the National Prosecutor's Office, there were 37 convictions under article 253 of the penal code throughout 2005. Complete sentencing data is not available at time of post's submission for these cases. However, according to the Ministry of Justice, from January to July, there were 17 persons sentenced under article 253 of the penal code. Of these persons sentenced, 4 were sentenced to two years imprisonment, 8 were sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment and 5 were sentenced to 3-5 years of imprisonment. There was one additional conviction in which the sentence was suspended, but other than that, the individuals convicted are serving their sentences in prison.

23F. Polish police believe that large organized crime groups as well as individual operators control the trafficking business and that victims are frequently trafficked by nationals of their own country, with Polish traffickers collecting a percentage to allow passage into or through Poland. According to arrest statistics, approximately 25 percent of traffickers are non-Poles. Bulgarian traffickers continue to account for a significant number of cases. Except for anecdotal evidence from NGOs that some corrupt police officers are complicit in trafficking, Post has received no information or indication that Polish government officials are involved in trafficking. Police sources believe that employment and talent agencies are sometimes used as fronts for trafficking operations.

23G. The GOP actively investigates trafficking. Advanced law-enforcement techniques, including immunity/mitigation, covert operations, etc., are used mainly by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI-Poland's FBI equivalent), but the CBI is not typically involved in the investigation of trafficking cases. Prosecutors' ability to protect other witnesses in trafficking cases is generally limited to withholding of personal data from court records. Victims' depositions may be used in Polish criminal cases even where defense counsel have not had the opportunity to be present or cross-examine witnesses; the Prosecutor's office indicates that it is likely that any defendant's appeal of a conviction based on such evidence to the European Court of Human Rights would be successful. Polish Border Guards also have the ability to use advanced law-enforcement techniques but find a shortage of resources limiting their effectiveness in investigating TIP (which is not their primary function). According to the NGO La Strada, Polish authorities lack sufficient resources to investigate and prosecute the majority of trafficking cases originating in Poland. In the past, they prosecuted cases that involved persons deported from Germany, but increasingly, cases now involve traffickers apprehended in Poland.

23H. Incoming border guards and police officers now receive some training on the subject of trafficking. Specialized training led by La Strada is conducted at the national law-enforcement training facility for selected personnel. This training involves role-play simulations, legal exercises, film showings, and other awareness-building exercises. Prosecutors throughout Poland have also taken part in training, including courtroom simulations with volunteer judges. As part of the National Anti-Trafficking Action Plan, 13 of the 16 Polish provinces had regional trainings in which police, border guards, justice officials, and social workers received training together on how to detect and assist trafficking victims in their regions. This training is led by La Strada and Ministry of Interior officials. The remaining three provinces will receive their training in 2006.

23I. Poland cooperates enthusiastically with other countries in trafficking cases and the repatriation of victims, especially with its closest neighbors. The main barrier to increased multinational investigations is a lack of funds. In October 2005, the GOP hosted an international conference, financed by EU funds, for law enforcement officials from neighboring countries to address the growing problem of forced labor. Also during the year, the British government financed an anti-trafficking international conference where law enforcement officials from Ukraine, Moldova, and Belarus received training from their Polish counterparts on how to detect, prevent, and assist victims of trafficking.

23J. The Polish constitution prohibits extradition of Polish citizens. However, since Poland's entry to the EU, citizens may be removed to other EU countries under a "European Arrest Warrant," despite the constitutional bar. According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Consular Department, there were no trafficking-related

extraditions either to or from Poland in 2005.

23K. Although the GOP is generally not tolerant of trafficking, there continue to be some credible accusations of lax attitudes among some officials and abuses, including sexual harassment, by individual police officers. This may be attributed to corruption and/or a lack of awareness among rank-and-file officers of the true nature of trafficking and the predicament of victims.

23L. There is no evidence that governmental authorities condone or are otherwise complicit in trafficking activities. GOP law-enforcement agencies are actively increasing their capacity to detect and apprehend criminal groups involved in trafficking. There are unconfirmed reports that local police have taken bribes to ignore known trafficking activity. If any such cases were determined to have merit, rules call for the offender to be automatically suspended pending an investigation. To date, there have been no cases of law-enforcement officials punished for trafficking-related corruption.

23M. According to the Nobody's Children Foundation, the leading Polish NGO dealing with trafficking in children, sex tourism has not been identified as a problem in Poland. They deal with approximately four cases of trafficked children per year, and have determined that Poland is primarily a transit country for child trafficking victims.

23N. The GOP ratified the ILO Convention 182 on August 9, 2002, and Conventions 29 and 105 (forced labor) on July 30, 1958. The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) was signed on February 13, 2002. The UN Trafficking Protocol (Palermo Protocol) was signed by the Government of Poland on December 12, 2000, and ratified on September 26, 2003. On September 10, 2004, the Polish Sejm passed a bill ratifying the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Pornography (of May 25, 2000). The ratification bill was signed by the President on December 31, 2004, and entered into force on March 4, 2005. The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime entered into force on December 25, 2003.

15. (SBU) PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS: Answers keyed to Para 24 of REFTEL A

24A. Polish law allows foreign victims to remain in Poland legally during the investigation and trial of their traffickers. Also, during the year, the Law on Aliens was amended to provide for a reflection period during which foreign trafficking victims are allowed to stay legally in Poland while deliberating whether or not to participate in the prosecution of their traffickers. Additional legislation has been enacted to allow for videoconference testimony from abroad. Polish victims are eligible for various welfare services. Foreign victims are not eligible for public welfare services, however, for the first time ever, the GOP allocated national funding for victim assistance in 2005. This money, approximately \$80,000, was provided to La Strada for use in the shelter they opened in 2004, as well as for the care of victims they do not house. An increased amount, of approximately \$160,000, was also allocated for victim's assistance in 2006. During 2005, La Strada assisted 230 victims, of which approximately 30 percent were foreigners.

24B. The GOP has significantly increased the dollar amount of its funding to La Strada to support victims. This funding, approximately \$80,000 in 2005 and \$160,000 in 2006 comes from the national budget through the Ministry of Interior. The Center for Women's Rights and shelters operated by Caritas and other Catholic organizations receive funding from local governments. The City of Warsaw allocated approximately \$25,000 in 2005 to partially fund La Strada's crisis intervention center and victim's assistance programs. The national government also provides funds to address AIDS prevention and domestic violence.

24C. La Strada and Caritas Polska both indicate that they are pleased with the degree of cooperation between Polish law-enforcement and victim assistance organizations. When identified, victims are typically referred to the nearest assistance point in Poland. The Polish government is devoting significant resources to training law enforcement officials so that they are able to easily identify and assist trafficking victims.



24D. Border guards and police sometimes regard victims of trafficking as criminals who have violated passport laws. However, according to government and NGO sources, increased training has markedly improved this situation, and most rank-and-file officers now understand the difference between smuggling and trafficking. Polish law continues to require that anyone found within the territory of Poland in an "illegal" status be deported to the country of origin. However, legislation enacted in late 2005 provides for a "reflection period" of two months during which a trafficking victim is permitted to remain in Poland, receive support and assistance, and decide whether to cooperate in an investigation. Victims who decide not to cooperate would be returned to their countries of origin, but in such a way as to attempt to shield them from contact with traffickers.

24E. The Polish government encourages and facilitates victim participation in investigations and prosecutions. As indicated above, victims, regardless of their legal status, may now remain in country to assist in the investigations of traffickers. This legal authority was used successfully for the 37 foreign victims who participated in the prosecution of their traffickers in 2005. Polish authorities have not encouraged victims to file civil suits or otherwise take legal action against traffickers. Increasingly, NGOs are working to enhance victims' access to legal service and inform them of their rights. Post knows of no victim restitution program other than repatriation of foreign victims.

24F. The government provides victim assistance through the local NGO La Strada, which currently receives funding from the national government specifically for the care of trafficking victims. Other NGOs such as Caritas and the Nobody's Children Foundation also provide victim assistance throughout Poland. According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, if a Polish victim requests assistance abroad, the Ministry has a list of local NGOs that can support the victims, as well as funds to help the victims return safely to Poland.

24G. Through a cooperative arrangement between the Polish Ministries of Interior and Administration and Foreign Affairs, extensive formal training for consular officials in Polish embassies and consulates abroad is regularly conducted. GOP officials encourage their embassies to develop relationships with anti-trafficking organizations in transit and source countries.

24H. While there is no specific government assistance set aside for repatriated nationals who are victims of trafficking abroad, such persons are eligible for standard unemployment and welfare benefits, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs cooperates with NGOs to identify repatriated Polish victims of trafficking for assistance. NGOs allow repatriated victims to participate in assistance programs and utilize shelters following their return to Poland.

24I. Numerous international, national, and local organizations are involved in anti-trafficking initiatives in Poland, and the NGO community remains at the forefront of Poland's anti-trafficking efforts. International organizations such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, UNHCR, International Organization on Migration, and OSCE are closely involved in anti-trafficking initiatives in Poland. NGOs active in the fight against trafficking include, La Strada, CARITAS, Temida Association of Lawyers, Barka Foundation for Mutual Assistance, and the Center for Women's Rights. Prestigious academic institutions such as the Jagiellonian University of Krakow, University of Zielona Gora, and the University of Warsaw are also involved in anti-trafficking education and policy-making. These institutions work closely with local authorities, and the relationship between NGOs and the national government is, by all accounts, excellent. NGO training and projects continue to be the most effective method to enhance Poland's overall anti-trafficking capacity.

#### **16. POLAND'S TIP HERO**

Stana Buchowska, co-founder of La Strada Poland, celebrated ten years of regional leadership and activism in the fight against trafficking in persons in Central and Eastern Europe in September 2005. She and her staff, comprised of a few dedicated full-time employees and many volunteers, continue to run the only shelter in Poland exclusively for trafficking victims trying to rebuild their lives. La Strada provides

trafficking victims, regardless of nationality, with psychological counseling, medical attention, reemployment training, access to legal representation, and countless other services under the auspices of their crisis prevention and social rehabilitation programs.

Ms. Buchowska is both a skilled, attentive practitioner and an effective lobbyist for her cause. She works on a daily basis with Polish law enforcement officials who identify trafficking victims and deliver them to her capably equipped staff. She also sits on the Polish interagency Anti-Trafficking working group and pushes her government to do even more to help. Ms. Buchowska and her organization have developed such a reputation for excellence and commitment that this year, the Government of Poland decided to directly fund La Strada's activities for the first time ever, allocating over \$250,000 dollars over two years to be spent exclusively on victim's assistance. Ms. Buchowska travels extensively throughout the region to La Strada partner organizations, regional conferences, and to conduct trainings in Poland's neighboring countries. La Strada has long been considered the primary Polish source of information on trends, statistics, and other trafficking in persons-related issues. La Strada is viewed as a model for nascent civil societies beginning to involve themselves in the fight against trafficking.

Ms. Buchowska is a member of the Global Alliance Against Trafficking in Women, as well as the recipient of multiple awards for her service to her local, national, and global communities. Stana Buchowska is a dynamic, yet humble, anti-trafficking hero.

NOTE: Stana Buchowska's name, date of birth, and nationality were cleared by RSO, CONS, and LegAtt here at post. No derogatory information has been found.

17. (SBU) POST COMMENT: The government of Poland fully complies with the minimum standards for elimination of trafficking and has demonstrated a political commitment to improving its anti-TIP programs and cooperation among agencies, NGOs, international organizations and other parties of interest. The GOP has increased training for police, prosecutors and other front-line personnel; continued (and increased) cooperation with neighboring states to combat traffickers; continued anti-corruption training programs; adopted a new law permitting trafficking victims to remain legally in Poland to assist in investigations and prosecutions; continued positive development of the National Action Plan and National Working Group; and pursued creative, effective strategies designed to incorporate international and EU definitions related to trafficking and minors into the Polish legal framework, even where legislation has not yet been enacted to conform Polish criminal and civil law. The Polish government has also demonstrated a financial commitment to assisting Trafficking victims through the funds allocated to the National Action Plan. Statistics pertaining to investigations, arrests and prosecutions show a continued commitment to quality investigations and prosecutions. Based on Poland's continued progress and commitment to combating trafficking, Post strongly supports the continued inclusion of Poland in Tier I. ASHE